

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

-- An ATM communication apparatus having a buffer memory 44 for storing cells received from each of input lines, a write control unit 43 for writing each of the received cells into the buffer memory so that the cells stored in the buffer memory form cell queues corresponding to connections for each output line, a read control unit 47 for reading out cells from each of the cell queues while guaranteeing a minimum cell rate predetermined for each connection within a range not exceeding a predetermined peak cell rate, and a unit 42 for adding congestion indication to a cell read out from a cell queue of which stored cell amount exceeds a preset threshold. --